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The question of Szechuen further opening up China to foreign commerce has lately provoked ungenial consideration. The treaty ports are numerous cordially, and form useful points of contact with the natives of the different maritime provinces, but it is strongly felt that, so far, foreigners have not touched the fringe of the great Chinese Empire, and that, owing to the very important means of communication by land, the bulk of China is still practically closed to foreign commerce. The great majority of the Chinese more especially, the sons of the provinces of SHANSI, HOPEI, KANSU, GHI, SICHUAN, KANSU, COORIN, and KANGSU, are still practically sealed off from the foreign world, and the light thrown upon their resources and capabilities by these enterprising travellers could be greatly increased. The Chinese world was formerly limited to the narrow route along which they journeyed. The country which has been sometimes styled Farther China, comprehends the provinces of Shensi, Kansu, Szechuen, Kweichow, and Yunnan. Of these Shensi is by far the most important. The Kansu and Szechuen are, put together, Szechuen is a kingdom in itself. It contains an area of 166,800 square miles and an estimated population of about twenty-two millions. The area of the United Kingdom is only 129,000 square miles, and the population is about one-fourth larger than that of Britain and Ireland and about the same as that of France. Yet this great country, with its 22,000,000 inhabitants, can only be approached by the Upper Yangtze in small native boats, and the route from Hankow to Chungking, the most easterly and therefore the nearest port of the province. In spite of distance, the heavy cost of transit, and the multiplied imports, some foreign goods do find their way into Farther China, but, as they are transported by very slow means, they are too inefficient for placing foreign goods on the Szechuen market. It cannot be doubted, that a great demand for them would spring up, and simultaneously a profitable export trade would be developed.

The province of Szechuen is blessed with a mild and agreeable climate, a productive soil, fertile pastures, and among its mountains are rich stores of minerals. It produces grain, tea, silk, much rhubarb, skins, bones, various metals, sulphur, and coal. Gold is found in the beds of the rivers, and is washed above Lu-ching bridge and near Ta-chien-lu. Mr. BARNES, who has been in the province, says that the Szechuen was, at least at one time, a mountain hamlet, that more than forty silver mines are intermittently worked near Lo-man-chiang, and that the most productive yielded eight ounces of the metal for every pound of ore. Owing to the discovery and maintenance of mining operations are conducted in the crudest manner, and the officials took the lion's share of the spoil. Mr. BARNES also tells us that sulphur abounded in the mountains round Ta-chien-lu, and Mr. LITZEN, speaking at the last meeting of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, gave figures of the enormous quantities of coal to the north-west of Chungking. With modern European mining appliances this mine might speedily be made highly remunerative, and the coal might be sent down in steamers of light draught to Hankow and Shanghai. It is not, however, a large and flourishing trade. Were the difficulties of access to this distant province surmounted, it could raise a vast amount of valuable produce for export. At present the inhabitants have no incentive to export beyond the supply of necessities. The principal Chinese liquor, opium, is produced in the province, in quantity to satisfy the consumption and the imports, which are made under transit passes from Hankow and Ichang, altogether are most unremunerative. This province has passed through many troubles, and is now in a most unfortunate position, distant from the eastern provinces, and though fairly prosperous considering the circumstances, would certainly make much greater progress if brought into contact with the outer world. Mr. BARNES found abundant proof during his travels that Szechuen has been settled by the Chinese for comparative ages. He found the natives of the Hsiao-an and Kiao-an as well as the remnants of remote antiquity, and their chronology hardly reaches further back than the end of the Ming dynasty, about 1645. The present Chinese inhabitants are nearly all descendants of immigrants who came in from the east under the present dynasty. A large portion of the population are of the same stock as the aboriginal tribes of Manchuria, Siam, and Lolos. They are indeed quite independent, and not so completely of Chinese authority.

greater or less extent in all countries, that is where the parents are poor and callous. There can, however, unfortunately be no question that whereas in European countries the murder of infants is looked upon as a crime pure and simple, in China it is considered to be a very grave crime, in public opinion. It is rarely condemned by the Government, and it is not practised by the well-to-do and middle classes, but that it is extremely prevalent amongst the poor is well established, not only on the evidence of Europeans who have had abundant opportunities of observing the people, but also by the reports of the missionaries, and by the accounts on the subject. *The N. C. Daily News*, in its "Abstract of *Peking Gazette*," under date October 4th, publishes a memorial from the Governor of Kiangsi and the Literary Chancellor of that province reporting the steps they have taken in obedience to Imperial Decree to suppress the practice of infanticide. "Some two months ago," the memorialists say, "they were informed by the Grand Council that His Majesty had issued a Decree referring to the memorialists' memorial from Wang Pa-shu-ai, an eunuch of the Hsiao-hsiao Yuan," who had called attention to the fact that, notwithstanding the efforts of a previous Literary Chancellor for the suppression of the crime of female infanticide. While admitting that this crime is inhuman and subversive of social morality, to smother "deeper" the matter, they submit that the Government should promise sterner higher, in regard than that of other provinces. "In obedience to earlier instructions from His Majesty on this subject, orders were given to the local authorities to exhaust the notables and gentry to divert their attention to the suppression of the crime, and to the improvement of the efforts being supported by the educational officers, who had orders to compile and publish strict rules upon the subject. During this past few years founding societies have been organized in each department or district on a scale commensurate with their respective size or capabilities, and the results have failed." The memorialists then go on to state that, although they have no reason to be admitted that the success was only partial in many instances, and that compliance openly promised with almsdeeds of those interested in the matter was often broken in interest. In view of this, they propose to the Emperor, that the Grand Council should direct the local officials to make education to the people on a wider scale, and to, be especially insistent in their exhortations at the examination seasons, and, as the success of their exertions might be considerably restricted in consequence of their not being possessed of punitive powers, they propose that the Government should combine with these, towards being given in cases where success was particularly apparent. The result of this system has been that nearly every Department and District town has now its Foundation or Orphanage for the receipt and maintenance of children that have been abandoned, and that, in the whole province, crippled by rebellion in earlier years, which has been followed by successive seasons of wet and flood, has prevented the universal spread of these establishments, is the continual regret of the Memorialists. In obedience to His Majesty's latest commands, they have issued orders to the local officers of the province to be sincere in their efforts to carry out the system that was in force, and these instructions have been supplemented by the issue of proclamations in the joint names of the Memorialists, which emphasize the prohibition of the practice of infanticide. "Here we have no available evidence that the custom has its roots deep down in the social system of the country, but we have equal evidence that it is condemned by the authorities and that efforts are made to eradicate it. But it is not possible to eradicate it, without the aid of the people, and the establishment of institutions that the crime will be stamping out. For this we must look to the growth of a healthy public opinion as to the proper position of woman and the recognition of her just claims to consideration equal to that of man. The growth of this public opinion, however, can hardly be rapid while the present wide discrimination exists in the education of the two sexes is continued. To quote again from Mr. Oving's speech at the meeting of the Peking Missionary Association: "In the present state of the Chinese mind, women are most ignorant and need constant encouragement. The two sins of women are said to be incontinence and impudence. There is a proverb which says 'The absence of talent and virtue in woman.' A glance over the books prepared for the instruction of girls shows with painful clearness the low estimate in which the Chinese mind holds woman. The book is the 'Trimmer's Classic,' a 'Thousand Character Classic,' 'Great Learning,' 'Analects of Confucius,' and so on, containing the best thoughts of the best men of China. Contrast with these the books

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JUDGMENT.

witnesses is by no means satisfactory, as there were numerous contradictions in it. Besides this,

Lobanov themselves say, of all the junks on the river, both going up and coming down, and if the

no collision, or even if he did not quite clear the Mount Lebanon's stern, the collision would have

taken at least double that time, and

thought it worth while to settle there, although there are rumours of more than one effort being

in view of the barrenness of the field, is con- siderately allowed to keep his home in Harlow.

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